

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 JUSE-00 CA-01 MCT-01 HA-05 TRSE-00  
AID-05 COME-00 /064 W  
-----025048 311815Z /72  
O 311730Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6710

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PGOV, CARR, SHUM, PINT, NU  
SUBJECT: UPDATE FOR SHELTON-SOMOZW MEETING

REF: (A) WELTER-TUCKER TELCON OF MAY 30, (B) MANAGUA 2068;  
(C) MANAGUA 1736; (D) MANAGUA 1638

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NON CONCETE ACHIEVEMENTS WITH REGARD TO EITHER THE ELECTORAL LAW REFORM INITIATIVES OR THE CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION BEYOND THE SITUATION REPORTED REF B.
2. THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT INITIATIVE TO PERMIT AN OPENING OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WILL REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF SOMOZA FOR ANOTHER WEEK UNTIL THE NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS IS INTITATED. SOMOZA MAY SUGGEST CHANGES IN THE REFORM AS PASSED BY THE LAST SESSION. HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO DRAW THE OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVES (PCN) INTO SUGGESTING CHANGES IN THE REFORM. THE PCN IS STUDYING THIS OFFER, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC INDICATION THAT THEY ARE NOW ENGAGED IN DIALOG ON THIS ISSUE. IF THE PCN DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN CHANGES NOW (E.G., IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL, THEY MAY STILL DO SO IN THE NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS. HOWEVER, THEY DO NOT LIKE TO BE IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO REACT TO THE SOMOZA INITIATIVE

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BECAUSE IT WAS PRESENTED AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI, AND THEY KNOW SOMOZA CAN IGNORE THEM AND PUSH IT THROUGH THE CONGRESS OVER THEIR OBJECTIONS. THEY ALSO HAVE THE PROBLEM OF POTENTIAL CRITICISM FROM OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS WITH WHOM THEY HAVE TRIED TO MAINTAIN UNITY IF THEY APPEAR TO MOVE AWAY FROM THEIR PUBLIC POSITION OF "NO DIALOG WITH SOMOZA" IF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM INITIATIVE IS ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS AS NOW STRUCTURED, THERE WILL BE A SECOND STAGE WHEN THE

CONGRESS BEGINS TO AMEND THE ELECTORAL LAW ITSELF, WHICH MAY BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE NEXT SESSION&

3. THE KEY POLITICAL ISSUE IN THE ELECTORAL REFORM PROCESS IS THE COMPOSITION OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL (CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLE 316). THIS IS A CURRENT ISSUE DURING THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM STAGE. THERE IS A SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GON AND THE OPPOSITION ON HOW THE TRIBUNAL SHOULD BE STRUCTURED. IF A COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE TO THE OPPOSITION COULD BE FOUND, IT WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT INDUCEMENT FOR THEM TO BELIEVE IN THE WILLINGNESS OF SOMOZA TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR CONCERNS AND TO PERMIT FREE AND HONEST ELECTIONS. IF SOMOZA DOES NOT COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE, THE OPPOSITION IS MUCH LESS LIKELY TO BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUBSEQUENT PROCESS OF AMENDING THE ELECTORAL LAW.

4. ON THE CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION, THE GON HAS FINALLY PRESENTED AN EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR CUBAN-BORN, USCIT PEDRO RAMOS (SEPTEL). FURTHER, THE IMPRISONED SUSPECTS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN PRESENTED BEFORE THE COURT TO ENTER THEIR FINAL PLEAS TO THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM. THEY ALL PLEADED INNOCENT. THE INVESTIGATION HAS NOT YET BEEN EXPANDED TO TAKE TESTIMONY FROM PERSONS TANGENTIALLY IMPLICATED IN THE CASE, AS LA PRENSA HAS URGED. THE MOTIVATION FOR THE REFUSAL OF PERSONS NAMED TO SERVE ON THE INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION LAY IN THE FACT THE COMMISSION WOULD ONLY HAVE HORTATORY POWERS (REF CL, AND THE BELIEF THAT THE INVESTIGATION WOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE INCONCLUSIVE (REF D).  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION LAW, ASSASSINATION, PROGRESS REPORTS, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 MANAGUA 2068, 78 MANAGUA 1736, 78 MANAGUA 1638  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Subject:** UPDATE FOR SHELTON-SOMOZW MEETING  
**TAGS:** PGOV, CARR, SHUM, PINT, NU, (CHAMORRO, PEDRO JOACHIN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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